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Message Text

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ORIGIN DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
CINCPAC
JCRC NKP THAILAND
CDR USDEL FPMJT SAIGON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS:MOPS PFOR, VS, VN, LA, CB
SUBJ: TRIBUTE OF APPRECIATION FOR EMMET KAY--INGERSOLL STATEMENT ON MIA'S
1. ACTING SECRETARY INGERSOLL PRESENTED STATE DEPARTMENT TRIBUTE OF APPRECIATION TO EMMET KAY AT DEPARTMENT NOVEMBER 1, IN RECOGNITION OF KAY'S COURAGE AND ENDURANCE AS PRISONER IN LAOS. REPRESENTATIVES OF MIA FAMILIES, CONGRESSIONAL STAFF AIDES, AND JOURNALISTS ATTENDED CEREMONY. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SECRETARY INGERSOLL'S REMARKS AT PRESENTATION: BEGIN TEXT.

2. WE ARE HERE TO PAY TRIBUTE TO EMMET KAY -- SAFELY RETURNED AT LAST AFTER MORE THAN 16 MONTHS AS A PRISONER
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IN LAOS. OUR POW'S RELEASED AFTER THE VIETNAM AND LAOS

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SETTLEMENTS IN 1973 HAD BARELY RETURNED HOME WHEN MR. KAY'S AIRCRAFT WENT DOWN IN NORTHERN LAOS. HIS WIFE FLORENCE REMAINED IN VIENTIANE WAITING FOR HER HUSBAND -- AND WE ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME HER ALSO HERE TODAY. AS MRS. KAY KNOWS, OUR EMBASSY IN LAOS WORKED CONSTANTLY TO ARRANGE MR.KAY'S RELEASE. WE HOPED IT WOULD COME MUCH SOONER, AND WE HONOR MR. KAY TODAY FOR HIS COURAGE AND ENDURANCE DURING THE LONELY MONTHS OF CAPTIVITY.

3. AS WE RECOGNIZE MR. KAY TODAY, WE THINK ALSO OF THE MANY AMERICANS WHO REMAIN UNACCOUNTED FOR IN INDOCHINA. THERE ARE SOME 2400 IN ALL, MORE THAN HALF DECLARED DEAD WITH

THEIR BODIES NOT RECOVERED, THE REST LISTED AS MISSING. THEY INCLUDE MEN FROM OUR MILITARY SERVICES, AS WELL AS SOME 30 AMERICAN CIVILIANS, AMONG THEM SEVERAL JOURNALISTS. THEIR FAMILIES HAVE WAITED FOR YEARS IN HOPE OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -- AS PROMISED IN THE VIETNAM AND LAOS AGREEMENTS OF 1973. SOME 20 MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED SINCE THOSE AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED, WITH VIRTUALLY NO PROGRESS ON ACCOUNTING FOR THE MISSING AND THE RETURN OF THE REMAINS OF THE DEAD.

4. DESPITE CONTINUING EFFORTS TO ARRANGE THIS, THE COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES HAVE REFUSED TO AGREE TO SEARCHES FOR CRASH SITES, GRAVES AND OTHER INFORMATION IN AREAS UNDER THEIR CONTROL. WE HAVE LONG BEEN READY TO CARRY OUT SUCH SEARCHES BY UNARMED AMERICAN TEAMS, AND WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUCH SEARCHES BY REPRESENTATIVES OF NEUTRAL COUNTRIES, BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS, OR BY RESPONSIBLE LOCAL AUTHORITES. SUCH SEARCHES HAVE HELPED RESOLVE A NUMBER OF CASES IN SOUTH VIETNAM, AND WE CONTINUE TO HOPE THEY CAN BE EXTENDED TO OTHER AREAS OF INDOCHINA AS WELL.

5. THE RELEASE OF EMMET KAY AND THE RELEASE OF NEARLY 400 OTHER PRISONERS HELD BY BOTH SIDES IN LAOS WAS A WELCOME FORWARD STEP IN CARRYING OUT THE LAOS AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOL. WE HOPE THIS ACTION WILL BE FOLLOWED BY CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORTS TO ACCOUNT FOR THE MISSING IN ALL
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PARTS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA WHERE AMERICANS WERE LOST. THE FAMILIES OF OUR MEN HAVE WAITED TOO LONG ALREADY--IT'S TIME TO GET ON WITH THE TASK.

6. I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK APPROVED A RESOLUTION ON THE SUBJECT OF ACCOUNTING FOR THE MISSING AND DEAD IN ARMED CONFLICTS. FROM OUR DISCUSSIONS OF

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THIS SUBJECT AT THE UN AND AT OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS
WE KNOW IT IS A MATTER OF CONCERN TO PEOPLE IN MANY COUN-
TRIES WHICH HAVE EXPERIENCED THIS PROBLEM DURING AND AFTER
HOSTILITIES. THERE SHOULD BE NO POLITICAL OR MILITARY
DISAGREEMENT ABOUT THIS HUMANITARIAN QUESTION, AND I
PLEDGE OUR OWN CONTINUED EFFORTS TO HELP RESOLVE IT.
END TEXT. INGERSOLL

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